

2013

# From Cooking Meals to Cocking guns

Janeal Downs

*Virginia Commonwealth University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/uresponse>

© The Author(s)

---

## Downloaded from

Downs, Janeal, "From Cooking Meals to Cocking guns" (2013). *Undergraduate Research Posters*. Poster 18.  
<http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/uresponse/18>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at VCU Scholars Compass. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Research Posters by an authorized administrator of VCU Scholars Compass. For more information, please contact [libcompass@vcu.edu](mailto:libcompass@vcu.edu).





# FROM COOKING MEALS TO COCKING GU

Janeal Y. Downs



From freshyoungmillionaire.com

Univ 200



## INTRODUCTION

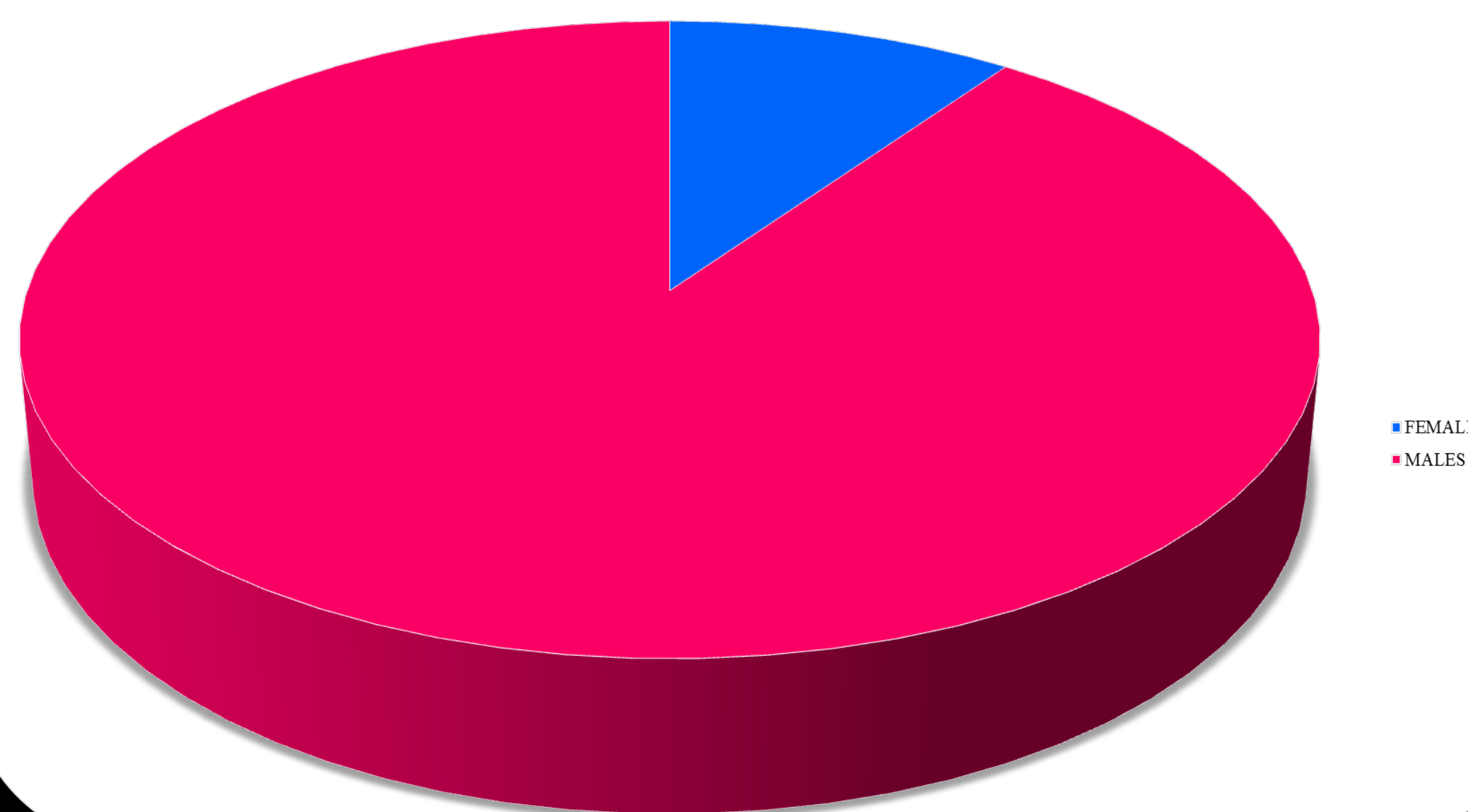
Most people associate gangs with their ability to destroy communities by engaging in drug use, drug distribution and violence, and they have been studied for decades. However, when researchers study gangs, they invariably focus on male members. When and if these studies mention women, most of the research solely references their roles as sexual objects or girlfriends of gang members. While examining research in Gender Studies, I have found evidence that women's role in gangs and violent acts have become more 'masculine' over time. Granted, women's roles in mixed gangs continue to be sexualized, but this is rapidly changing, especially within all girl gangs. By including organized crime, these women are transforming the boundaries of gaining gender equality. Although gangs can be dangerous, many operate much like organized businesses. Females' growing rate of gang involvement in such "masculine" structures offers the potential for building status in all male communities and female empowerment.

## OVERVIEW

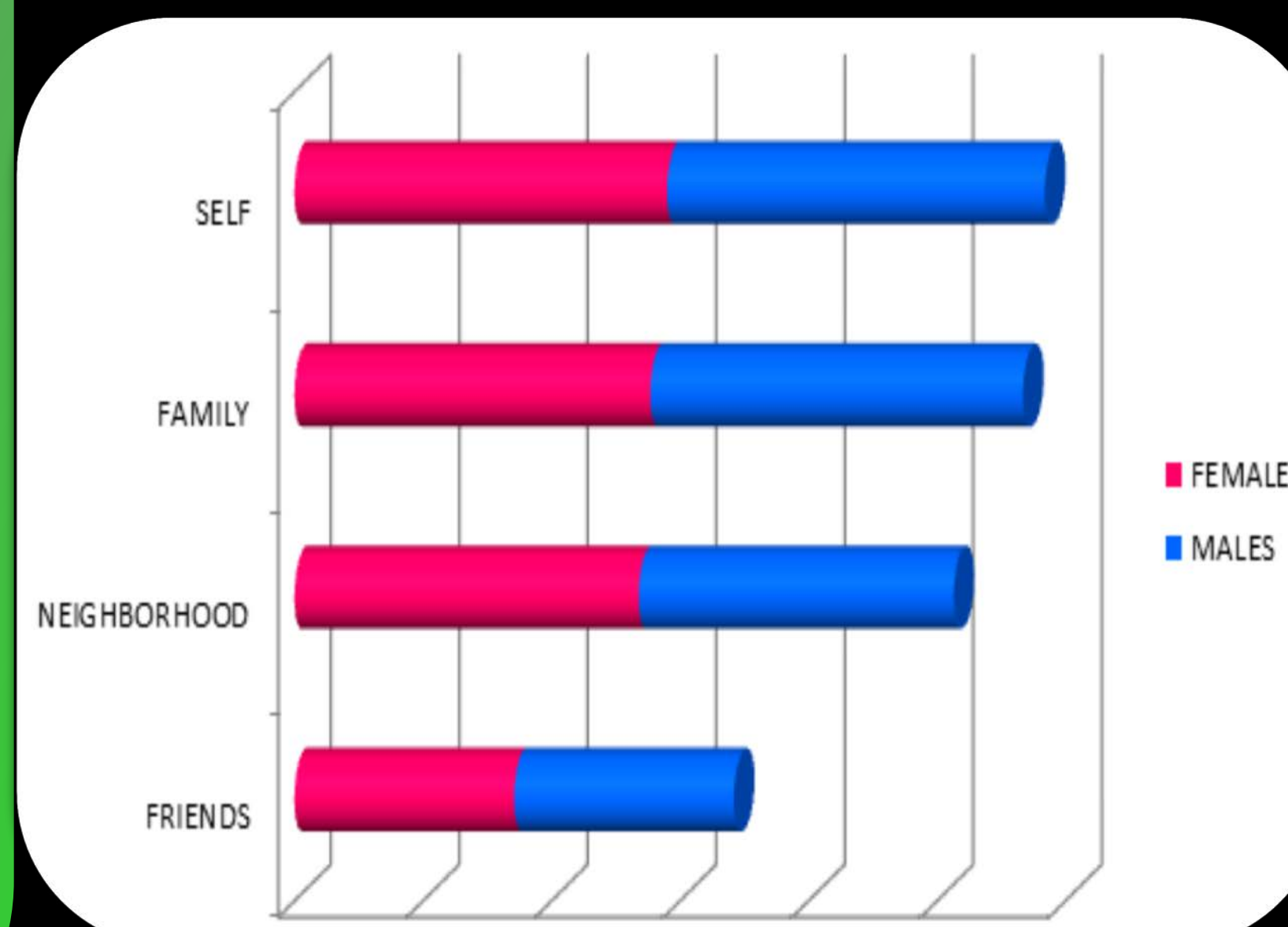
I attempted to find evidence that females were breaking gender roles by being involved in gangs. I found evidence that suggested that violent females are considerably out of society norms. Most people don't consider females when they think about a gang member, yet it is presumed that they make up 10% of active gangs members. However, due to the lack of thorough research, none of the data that I have found is absolutely confident in their numbers. Females join gangs for the same reasons male do, however, unlike male gang members female gang members' "main concern [has] less to do with status and reputation, and more to do with innovative ways to make a living and survive in a bleak environment with no legitimate opportunities to make money and a weak support system (Karen p.150)."

One study found that of the girls interviewed, 80% of them said that one of the reasons they joined a gang is because it was a way to make their own money, 20% of the participants said it was a way to make money that can assist their family. These woman are taking initiative so that they can take care of themselves and their families.

HOME GIRLS VS. HOMEBOYS



Reasons for joining gangs



## RESULTS

- GANGS ARE RUN LIKE BUSINESSES
- MCDONALDS IS A BUSINESS WHERE THE PEOPLE AT THE BOTTOM GET PAID THE LEAST BUT THE PEOPLE AT THE TOP GET PAID!!
- FEMALES ARE GETTING A PIECE OF THE POWER ABOVE!
- WOMAN WHO COMMIT A COMMON CRIME FOR A MAN WILL GET MORE MEDIA COVERAGE
- A WOMAN AND A MAN WHO COMMITS A CRIME TOGETHER GETS MORE MEDIA COVERAGE THAN THE BULLET ABOVE!- BONNIE AND CLYDE EFFECT
- WOMAN CAN BE SEXED IN, BEAT IN, OR BLESSED IN (FAMILY IS ALREADY IN) TO A GANG
- INITIATIONS TO GANGS CAN COMPARE TO HAZING OF FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES
- WOMAN ARE ATTRACTED TO AGGRESSIVE MEN( MY BE MEN IN GANGS)
- MEN WANT THEIR WOMAN TO BE SUBMISSIVE NOT AGGRESSIVE
- WELL OH WELL TO THE ABOVE BULLET, THEY CAN'T HOLD US BACK!
- FROM EQUALITY IN VOTING TO EQUALITY IN VIOLENCE AND POWER!!
- IT IS MORE INTERESTING TO SEE A VIOLENT WOMAN THAN MAN IN MEDIA!

From eng.hebus.com



From Eva Pigford's tumblr



From commentsyard.com

From en.wikipedia.org



## CONCLUSION

Woman are taking initiative to make their own money and protect themselves instead of waiting on a man to do it. Gangs offer them this in a sense. Although, gangs might not be the most positive way, young girls seeing other woman in power offers a type of role model for young girls in broken homes and communities. Woman have/are fighting for equality in the work force, politics, sports voting rights. Now they are literally fighting for equality in all things including violence.



## WORKS CONSULTED

- Ahmetoglu, Gorkan, and Viren Swami. "Do Women Prefer "Nice Guys"? The Effect Of Male Dominance Behavior On Women's Ratings Of Sexual Attractiveness." *Social Behavior & Personality: An International Journal* 40.4 (2012): 667-672. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 24 Feb. 2013.
- Esbensen, Finn-Aage, and Elizabeth Piper Deschenes. "A Multisite Examination Of Youth Gang Membership: Does Gender Matter?." *Criminology* 36.4 (1998): 799-827. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 7 Mar. 2013.
- Giordano, Peggy C. "Girls, Guys And Gangs: The Changing Social Context Of Female Delinquency." *Journal Of Criminal Law & Criminology* 69.1 (1978): 126-132. *Women's Studies International*. Web. 21 Feb. 2013.
- Jennifer Rauch, et al. "Gender In Crime News: A Case Study Test Of The Chivalry Hypothesis." *Mass Communication & Society* 9.2 (2006): 137-163. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 26 Feb. 2013.
- Karen A. Joe Laidler and Geoffrey Hunt
- *Social Justice* , Vol. 24, No. 4 (70), Losing a Generation: Probing the Myths & Reality of Youth & Violence (Winter 1997), pp. 148-169. Web. 12 Apr. 2013.
- Levitt, Steven, perf. *The freakonomics of McDonalds vs. Drugs*. TED TALKS, Web. 08 Apr 2013. <[http://www.ted.com/talks/steven\\_levitt\\_analyzes\\_crack\\_economics.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/steven_levitt_analyzes_crack_economics.html)>.
- Laidler, Karen Joe, and Geoffrey Hunt. "Accomplishing Femininity Among The Girls In The Gang." *British Journal Of Criminology* 41.4 (2001): 656-678. *Social Sciences Abstracts (H.W. Wilson)*. Web. 27 Mar. 2013.
- Molitor, Christian E. "Female Gang Members: A Profile Of Aggression And Victimization." *Social Work* 41.3 (1996): 251-257. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 7 Mar. 2013.
- Pyrooz, David C., and Scott H. Decker. "Motives And Methods For Leaving The Gang: Understanding The Process Of Gang Desistance." *Journal Of Criminal Justice* 39.5 (2011): 417-425. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 8 Apr. 2013.
- Walker-Barnes, Chanequa J., and Craig A. Mason. "Perceptions Of Risk Factors For Female Gang Involvement Among African American And Hispanic Women." *Youth & Society* 32.3 (2001): 303. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 11 Apr. 2013.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING:

BONNIE BOAZ FOR BEING A GREAT PROFESSOR

MY MOTHER FOR GIVING BIRTH TO ME

MY FAMILY/FRIENDS

HERBERT HILL FOR PRINTING MY POSTER

ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT FOR EQUALITY